

## Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee

June 24, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Committee: Bruce Bentley, Dave Boyd, Bill Brosseau, Donna Hartmann-Miller, Stephanie Johnson-Toliver, Shanon Kearney, Ross Maddalena, Pete Spalding

Staff: Gerry Asp, Susan Golub, Chip Nevins, Terry Roche, Michael Shiosaki; and Brian Sperry from the Seattle Department of Transportation

### **Director's Report**

Michael Shiosaki, Director of Parks Planning and Development Division, provided the Committee with an update:

- Judkins Park skatespot recently opened;
- Hubbard Homestead skatespot is just underway;
- Highland Park spraypark opening has been delayed due to a delay in the King County inspection (*Note: it has since opened*);
- Laurelhurst Play Area is under construction and will open in late summer (*Note: it did*);
- Montlake Play Area to start late summer.

Opportunity Fund projects:

- John Street Enhancement, which creates additional park space next to Summit Slope Park is currently in the Street Improvement Permit (SIP) process with the Seattle Department of Transportation;
- Troll's Knoll is scheduled to start planning later this year;
- Cedar Park project is on hold because the project is on school property and the School District is redeveloping the school, so we won't know how to design the park project until the design development is completed for the school redo;
- Westcrest Park is in the final construction document stage on the reservoir lid;
- 19<sup>th</sup> & Madison acquisition is complete and the design work is underway with funding from a Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund grant;
- 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Woonerf will go out to bid soon.

### **Thank You to Terry Roche**

The Committee expressed their appreciation to Terry Roche, Parks CIP manager in the Finance and Administrative Division who is retiring. Terry has tracked the financial status of all of the Levy projects, monitored incoming tax revenue and projected Levy fund balances, developed legislation for Council approval for all Levy project appropriations, and much, much more.

Terry has attended **all** Oversight Committee meetings since he began with Parks, moving over from the Aquarium. He will be missed!

### **Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Levy Projects**

Brian Sperry of SDOT presented the status of SDOT Levy projects:

1. Lake Union Ship Canal Trail is complete and was funded by the Pro Parks Levy;
2. Mountains to Sound Trail Phase 1 was also funded by Pro Parks;
3. Thomas Street Pedestrian Bridge opened last December with funding from both the Pro Parks and the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy;
4. Burke-Gilman Trail Missing Link is in design. There has been a SEPA appeal and SDOT will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will include a fresh look at alignment alternatives and will cost about \$1.5 million to prepare.

Committee member comments regarding the Burke Gilman Trail:

- Concern was expressed over the high cost of the EIS;
- Why is the Levy paying for the EIS;
- Why is SDOT looking again at alternate routes, as that has been done before;
- With the project at 90% design for the Shilshole route, why are they taking another look.

Mr. Sperry responded that the EIS is required because of the SEPA appeal – business owners are fighting the Shilshole route. Mr. Sperry also spoke about a project to make the existing bike route along Shilshole safer by:

- Reducing the speed limit;
- Traffic calming devices; and
- Islands to separate bikes and cars.

Design is planned in 2013 with construction in 2014; and SDOT would like to use Levy funds for this project. While this would not be the final design if Shilshole is ultimately chosen for the missing link, it would provide temporary safety improvements.

Committee comments;

- The intent of the Levy is not to use Levy funds for temporary projects;
- Other funds should be found for the safety improvements;
- The safety improvements are even more unrelated to the purpose of the Levy than the EIS, which at least is connected to a specific permanent project.

Mr. Sperry will report back to the Committee on these issues.

5. West Duwamish Trail has \$2 million in funds from the Levy
  - The alignment has been moved from S. Holden to S. Portland to be on a quieter street;
  - Design is to be completed in 2013, construction and opening in 2014.
6. Mountains to Sound Phase 2 may have \$200-300,000 left over for other projects
  - Proposal by SDOT is to use these funds for the next phase of Mountains to Sound, including a gap in SODO;
  - The goal is to get across I-5.

### **Mid-term Levy Report**

Terry Roche, of Parks Finance and Administrative Division, presented the Mid-term Levy Report to the Committee:

- In the early years of the Levy there was a big push to start projects in order to counter the impacts of the Recession;
- The average spent has been about \$24 million per year;
- We haven't spent what has been brought in through tax revenue, so there is a good fund balance;
- Overall, we have made significant progress getting Levy projects completed.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Terry and Michael reported:

- Seattle Asian Art Museum project is not underway because the Museum has not raised the required match due to the Recession;
- Conversation with the Museum is underway and staff will report on the status of the Museum Levy allocation at the next Oversight Committee meeting.

### **Future Oversight Committee Schedule**

- There will not be July or August meetings;
- Future updates will be on the Development Program, Acquisition Program, the Green Seattle Partnership, Street Ends and P-patches.
- The September meeting will include an update on the Bell Street project and the Seattle Asian Art Museum funds.

### **Greenwood Park In-holding Acquisition**

Chip Nevins, of Parks Property Management Unit, presented the Committee with a new acquisition at Greenwood Park:

- The park was originally bought using 1999 Open Space Bond funds;

- It was expanded with Pro Parks funds by purchasing 2 in-holdings adjacent to the Park along Greenwood Avenue;
- Now we are trying to get 2 additional in-holdings that recently became available;
- Although the Park is 2 blocks outside the Greenwood Urban Village, it serves the north portion of the Urban Village.

The Committee, by consensus, concurred with Parks proposal to acquire the 2 additional Greenwood Park in-holdings.

### **Smith Cove Acquisition Update**

Chip continued the Acquisition Program report with new information about Smith Cove park:

- Earlier in the Spring, staff asked the Committee to recommend approval of an agreement to purchase waterfront property at Smith Cove;
- The agreement/deal has changed, so staff are coming back with the new information;
- Previous price for the property was \$4.5 million and now it is \$5.26 million;
- The change is due to SDOT deciding *not* to buy part of the property for future Magnolia Bridge redevelopment;
- Despite the change, the impact to the Levy remains substantially the same:
  - Up to \$2 million from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy
  - \$500,000 from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy (net after reimbursements from the King County Conservation Futures Tax funds and sale of an underground easement to King County).

**Motion:** Donna Hartmann-Miller moved a recommendation to approve the funding plan for Smith Cove park property presented by Chip. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.